

Appl. No. 10/692,971

Reply to Office action of December 22, 2004

## REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on December 22, 2004 by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Examiner required a restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a low shock separation joint, classified in class 89, subclass 1.14.
- II. Claims 12-15, drawn to a method of assembling a separation joint, classified in class 102, subclass 378.
- III. Claims 16-20, drawn to a method of reducing shock in a separation joint, classified in class 102, subclass 378.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Invention I, that is, claims 1-11, for prosecution on the merits. Applicants respectfully submit that this reply is fully responsive to the election requirement mailed on December 22, 2004. However, should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss the above-identified application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (480) 385-5060.

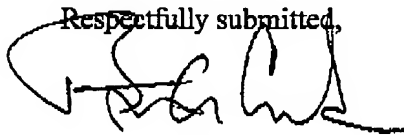
If for some reason an extension is required to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Dated

1/13/2005

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Respectfully submitted,



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